THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (b) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the table of the House.

Import of edible Oils

235. SHRI L. GANESAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) how much edible oil of different varieties was imported into the country during the last three years, year-wise separately;

(b) whether any representation has been received against the import of coconut oil and plam oil; if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to import both coconut and palm oil in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Oilwise import of edible oils by State Trading Corporation during the last 3 years are as follows:—

(Quantity lakh MT)

Oil	Financial Year 1983-84	1984-85	1985-86 April December (1985) (Provisional)
Soyabean oil	5·52	5·52	3·59
Neutralised palm oil	0·76	0·83	0·12
Rape seed oil	2·00	2·81	1·27
Refined, bleazhed & deodorised palm oil	1·76	1·35	0.63
Refined bleached & deodorised palmolein.	3·55	4·96	3·30
Sunflowerseed oil	0·19	0·29	
Refined soyabean oil	0·31	..	..
Coconut oil	..	0·09	..
TOTAL	14·09	15·85	8·91

(b) some representations have been received against the import of coconut oil and is substitution oils. Representations were received from the following:

1. Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited.

2. Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation Limited.

3. Chief Minister of Kerala.

All the three respentations stress upon the low prices of coconut oil prevalent in Kerala and the resulting hardship to the cultivators requesting that no further imports of coconut oil and its substitute oil should be resorted to .

As a measure to help coconut gowers Government has introduced a market intervention scheme for copra for the year 1985-86. Under the scheme, market interventios price for copra has been fixed at Rs. 1200 per quintal. In addition imports of coconut oil against REP licences has been discontinued.

(c) There is no proposal to import coconut oil at present. In so far as plam oils is concerned, imports will depend on the prices, demand and availability of indigenous edible oils.

Purchasing power of rupee

236. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that purchasing power of rupee has declined sharply over the years;

(b) if so, what was the real purchasing power of rupee in 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1986; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to contain inflationary trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANRDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The purchasing power of the rupee, measured as the reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Base 1960-100). was 116.28 paise in 1951 96.15 paise in 1961, 52.63 paise in 1971, 22.68 paise in 1981, 16.45 paise in 1985 (Latst available).

(c) Government accords high priority to the control of inflation. The thrust of antiinflationary measures continues to be on effective supply and demand management including strengthening of the public distribution system, supply of foodgrains to poorer sections at highly subsidised prices under special schemes, enforcement of fiscal discipline and keeping the aggregate liquidity in the economy under control.

CBI investigation against Deputy General Manager, Punjab and Sind Bank

237. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 372 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th November, 1985 and state;

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has since completed its investigation regarding the accumulation of disproportionate assets by the Deputy General Manager, Punjab and Sind Bank and submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against him on the basis of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Standing Committee on Labour

238. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Standing Committee on Labour has been set up; and

(b) if so, what is the composition of the committee and what are its objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The 28th session